The GetWell Frontend Program

On June 26, the WELL signed a contract with Johan Strandberg for the creation of a Macintosh-based frontend program for accessing and using the WELL. The program will allow users to set up their WELL dialup and conference lists on their Macintosh computers, auto dial the WELL, capture and download all new conference materials and email for reading locally on their computer, and will then allow responses to conference topics and email to be typed and edited locally for uploading later. The program will cut WELL online costs and phone connect costs for the user and will allow the user to spend more time using familiar software and less time learning the operation of Picospan. These savings and convenience features should make the program attractive to Mac-using WELL subscribers.

The terms of the contract call for a total of $4500 paid to Johan in three equal monthly payments. The program will deliver Alpha and Beta versions at specified times and will deliver a finished version by October 22, 1990. The WELL may choose its own Alpha and Beta testers and make recommendations during the test periods. Once a finished version is ready, Johan will deliver the product with printed manual, shrinkwrapped to the WELL. The first 300 copies will be made available at $40/copy with a recommended sale price of $80. With postage and handling our breakeven point will be about 100 unit sales.

The Apple Library Users' Group (ALUG) is trying out the WELL at Steve Cisler's suggestion. Thirty-five trial accounts have been granted for a prepayment of $5040. One of the conditions for ALUG's joining the WELL was the completion of a program with the features of GetWell. The advance payment is helping to finance the programming costs.